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"COME, AND YOU WILL SEE." - JN 1:39A

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

When Samuel went to sleep in his place,
the LORD came and revealed his presence,
calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!"
Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Sm 3:9-10)

PSALM:

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will. (Ps 40)

SECOND READING:

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?
But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. (1 Cor 6:15, 17)

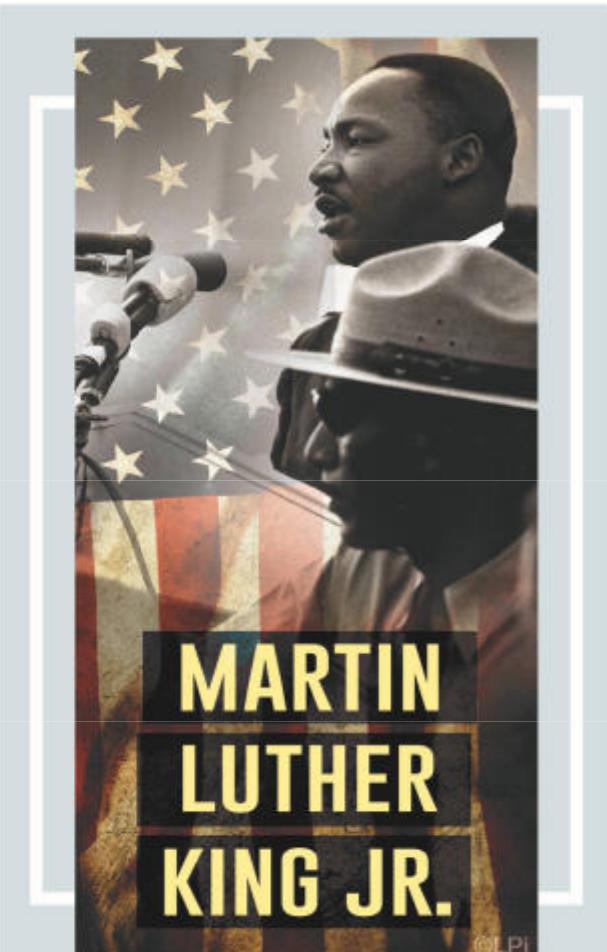
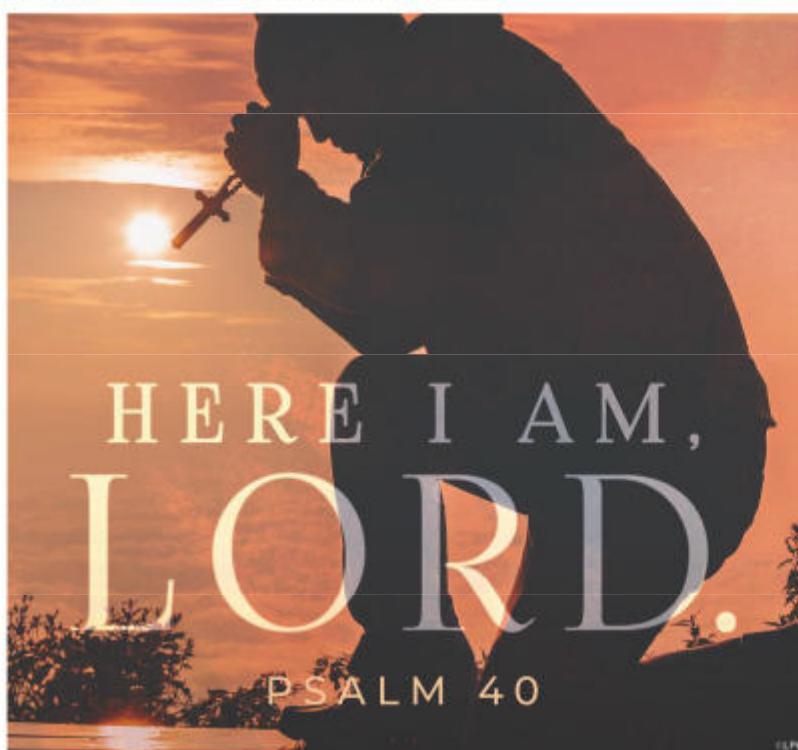
GOSPEL:

So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. (Jn 1:39)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 17, 2021

Sunday:	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; Martin Luther King Day
Wednesday:	St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr
Thursday:	St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
Friday:	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
Saturday:	St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin; BVM
Next Sunday:	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



REFLECT

FIRST READING

Eli was the priest of the temple in Shiloh. He raised Samuel and helped Samuel to hear God's voice in his life. Who have you taught to hear God's voice?

SECOND READING

Paul taught the Corinthians that believers should "glorify God in your body" by avoiding immorality. What do you think is needed to live a good, moral life?

GOSPEL READING

In John's account of the call of the first disciples, Jesus poses the question, "What are you looking for?" In your own spiritual journey, how do you know you have found Jesus?

CHRIST IS ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY

We're about to dive headlong into week two of Ordinary Time, and we need to admit, after the hustle and bustle of the holidays, things are indeed looking more... ordinary, at least in our spiritual lives.

The transcendent highs of the Christmas season are flatlining a bit and the vivid imagery of the Nativity scene has faded. The solemn anticipation of the Advent season is by now a distant memory.

Are you bored yet?

Here's a secret: I think that Ordinary Time can actually be quite extraordinary, if we're really living out our baptismal call.

In today's Gospel, Jesus point-blank asks Andrew, who is following him after hearing

John the Baptist's testimony: "What are you looking for?" He's asking us the same question.

What are you looking for? Why are you following me? Is it for the Christmas cookies and the Advent carols? Is it for the King's Cake on the Epiphany? Is it for the feeling we get on Christmas when we just know God has done a wondrous thing?

None of those things are bad, but they are not what Andrew was looking for, and they were not what Christ promised him when he said, "Come, and you will see." Andrew was looking for the Messiah — the One who makes even Ordinary Time extraordinary. The One who can sanctify the longest and dullest of to-do lists, on the longest and dullest of days. The One whose peace can reign in our homes on January 25, not just December 25.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WHY DO PARISHES HAVE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IN A SEPARATE ROOM?

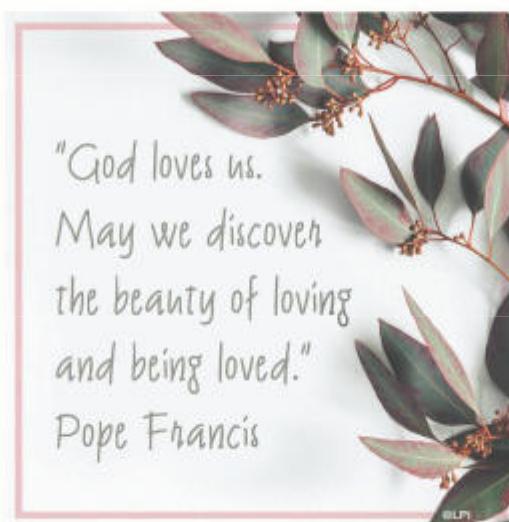
While many Catholics of a certain age have memories of the Blessed Sacrament being housed in the tabernacle on the high altar of the church, many parishes in the decades since the Second Vatican Council have chosen to build a separate space — a reservation chapel — where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. Although this practice is not universal, it is in keeping with the guidance offered by the US Bishops in their document *Built of Living Stones* (see nos 77-78). The goal is to create a space that is separated from the nave and sanctuary, but which is "integrally connected with the church" which can foster "reverence and can provide the quiet and focus needed for personal prayer." This can be especially important for communities that have continuous eucharistic

adoration, allowing people to come and pray in a space separate from the normal activities of parish life.

The practice of reserving the Eucharist in a separate space — or in a dignified location away from the altar where Mass is celebrated — is that it emphasizes the importance of the liturgy itself, which is the "source and summit" of the life of the Church.

As with many things in the Church, the practice of placing the tabernacle in the sanctuary or in a separate chapel is not universal (as can be seen in visits to historic churches in Rome and other places). The important thing is that as communities question where to place the tabernacle, they listen to the voice of the Church, explore the ancient and varied liturgical tradition of the Church, consider

the needs and life of the community, and also take into account the architecture and limits of the spaces they might already have.



LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

We have often heard it said that God is always calling but we are not always listening. It is not only that we are not listening, but that we are not familiar enough with God to even recognize that it is God who is calling! We can easily mistake God's voice for someone or something else and miss some profound opportunities for connection. We have to train our minds, hearts, and souls to specifically listen for the voice of God. It is a voice that draws us to deeper places, leading us to moments of grace and more profound God awareness. To look at Jesus and be able to say, "Behold, the Lamb of God," means that I know something special about this person whom others know as simply a man. I will become more attentive and receptive when he says, "Come, and you will see." I may even be more willing to set aside what I am doing and actually go.



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2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Our faith is not just about ideas. It's really about having an encounter with God and, in particular, the Risen Christ! Once we give ourselves over to the notion of God's presence, we have to train ourselves to listen for God's voice and be attentive to God's call. Having companions on our faith journeys is so incredibly important as they can help us fine-tune our listening skills and discern God's voice from others we may be hearing. Faith is all about having these profound encounters not only with God but with our brothers and sisters, and creation itself. Anyone or anything that is alive with God's presence becomes an occasion for God to speak and call us to deeper graces and experiences. "Come, and you will see."

The example and teaching of Jesus, the lives of the saints, those living among us and those glorified in heaven, and the wonder and beauty of creation can all serve to help us listen more clearly and assist in positioning ourselves for this profound God meeting. It is an encounter that can quickly and easily lead to a friendship and intimate



intertwining of our souls to their Maker, making a claim on us like no other. Then, the Word of God moves from being just a body of ideas to something we simply accept and do. The person of Jesus Christ swiftly moves from being just a good prophet in word and deed to the incarnate presence of God Himself, the Lamb of God. The voice leads us to the Person behind it.

The Gospel is hard to follow. We can intellectually debate whether what Jesus said is really what we are asked to do. The Gospel ideas do not always make sense in

our practical, secular world. The person of God always does. We can debate the practicality and sense of ideas and doing so often keeps the more difficult ones at a safe distance away from us. Jesus said to love our enemy, but we really don't need to do that, our minds try to convince us. It just doesn't make sense. Yet, if we are truly in love with the God who is behind the voice of those words, they make perfect sense. Our deep and intimate love of this God would even find us laying down our lives for Him if necessary. Speak Lord, your servant is listening.

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi"—which translated means Teacher—"where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." - Jn 1:38-39a

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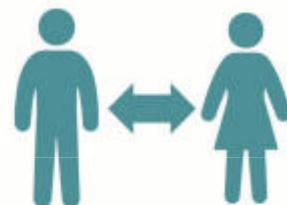
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3 EASY STEPS

TO KEEPING YOURSELF & OTHERS HEALTHY!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.



WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.

DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE

Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.

**“The time is always right
to do what is right.”**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Kids Corner

READ THE
GOSPEL &
COLOR



Mexican families share a special treat called a Kings' Cake on January 6th. Hidden inside the cake is one tiny little doll shaped like the baby Jesus. If you find Jesus in your piece of cake, you tell everyone. In today's Gospel, Andrew met Jesus for the first time. Andrew was so excited to find the Savior, he ran to tell his brother he had found Jesus.

PRAYER

Jesus, help me tell my family and friends about you.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Ask your family if you could include Kings' Cake in your holiday celebrations next year.



Monday, Jan 18, 2021

For more than 100 years, Christians around the world have been observing annually the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan. 18-25). For Catholics, this week is an opportunity to also ponder the Decree on Ecumenism from Vatican II. Is your diocese or parish participating in this healing effort? For resources, visit the World Council of Churches at [Prayer for Christian Unity](#). As you pray, call to mind this year's theme: "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 2:18-22*

Tuesday, Jan 19, 2021

Exactly 60 years ago tomorrow, John F. Kennedy gave an inaugural address that quoted Romans 12:12, reminding citizens to be "rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation." One year later, Pope John XXIII became a secret intermediary between Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, speaking a message of peace to the entire world during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Haunted by the experience, he penned his final encyclical, *Pacem in Terris*, stressing the church's Christian duty to address international issues of peace and human rights—speaking to all persons "of good will," not only Catholics. Pray for peace and the perseverance of hope.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 6:10-20; Mark 2:23-28*

Wednesday, Jan 20, 2021

Optional Memorial of Fabian, Pope, Martyr

In the year 236, Fabian left his farm and headed to Rome. He wanted to be in town for the election of a new pope. The furthest thing from his mind, or anyone's mind, was that he would be elected. Legend holds that as clergy discussed worthy candidates, a dove landed on the head of bystander Fabian. Thinking it was a sign from the Holy Spirit, the crowd elected Fabian by acclamation. A kind and capable administrator, he had the respect of both the faith community and three different emperors in a period of rare peace. Although that peace eventually ended and persecution cost him his life, Fabian's legacy endures. Be open to unexpected visitations of the Holy Spirit!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17; Mark 3:1-6*

*Invest just five minutes a day,
and your faith will deepen and grow
a day at a time.*

Thursday, Jan 21, 2021

Memorial of Agnes, Virgin, Martyr

Today we honor both Saint Agnes, virgin and martyr, and, in some places, Our Lady of Altadragia, protectress of the Dominican Republic. The devotion to both grew from grassroots popularity; that is, ordinary Christians were moved by their stories and lifted them up for veneration. Saint Agnes was executed for her faith in the fourth century. Our Lady of Altadragia is an image of Mary in the Dominican Republic that, according to legend, kept mysteriously moving to an orange grove until a church was built there. Centuries later memories of both women continue to inspire the faithful. Take a moment to reflect on women of faith who inspire you.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 7:25—8:6; Mark 3:7-12*

Friday, Jan 22, 2021

How many apostles did Jesus call? If you said 12, well, you are sort of correct. Indeed, Jesus appointed 12 followers to be his close companions, to learn from him, and to preach the Good News. But it doesn't stop at 12. Jesus continues to call forth apostles in the church. We have bishops who continue the mission via the tradition of apostolic succession. We also have every single person in the church, including you! "The whole church is apostolic, in that she remains . . . in communion of faith and life with her origin: and in that she is 'sent out' into the whole world," says the Catechism of the Catholic Church. How will you respond to your call to apostleship?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 8:6-13; Mark 3:13-19*

Saturday, Jan 23, 2021

Optional Memorial of Marianne Cope, Religious

Imagine leaving all that is familiar to minister in a far-off land. Now imagine doing it twice! German-born Marianne Cope came to the United States as a young woman and, as a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Syracuse, New York, became a founding leader of St. Joseph's Hospital in the city, one of the first general hospitals in the country. Then in 1883 she relocated with six other sisters to Hawai'i to care for persons suffering leprosy and to help develop the medical infrastructure of the island chain. Pray today for an ounce of the courage and sacrifice she modeled for us all.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14; Mark 3:20-21*



January enero

Mass Intentions

Weekend of January 16th & 17th
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

✠ Leighton Nickerson
For the People of St Stevens

✠ Oranda Nichols

Monday January 18th

✠ Ray Schuller

Tuesday January 19th

✠ John Brass

Wednesday January 20th

✠ Donna Marie Marino

Thursday January 21st

✠ Ine (Agnes) Tu Nguyen

Friday January 22nd

✠ Roy Maloney

Weekend of January 23rd & 24th
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

✠ Sebastian Caravella
For the People of St Stevens

✠ Gregory Peterson



SVdP is not able to be present for its 5th Sunday Collection in January.

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or by placing your donation in an envelope in the Collection Box
located on the entrance gate to the Church Complex
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Your continued support is especially appreciated during these days of COVID-19

Questions Catholics Ask: Will the church be different after a time of global crisis?

The church has been growing, evolving, responding to each generation it embraces.

It better be! The church is a living organism, the Body of Christ, composed of you and me and multitudes of others. Some have “gone before us, marked with the sign of faith,” and some have yet to be born. Collectively, the church is 2,000 years old and counting. In all that time, the church has been growing, evolving, responding to each generation it embraces. So in that sense, we’re not your grandmother’s church, nor simply the church of Aquinas or Augustine, Paul or Mary Magdalene. At the same time, we’re absolutely “one faith, one Lord, one baptism” with all of the above. So yes: when you get back inside your local parish for liturgy again, the church will have been affected by what we’ve cumulatively experienced and bring with us into that space once more.

Religious leaders are considering possible implications of the COVID-19 era and what it might mean for the church going forward. Here’s a short list of potential ways the church may evolve, suggested by a nationally known liturgist:

- ◆ The laity may rely less on Father to make church happen for the rest of us. Father doesn’t “do the holy stuff for us.” We all do it, together. When assembling is impossible, we’ve practiced being church in the physical absence of our pastors.
- ◆ Let’s embrace our baptismal priesthood. Sacramentally speaking, we the baptized die to ourselves, to live for Christ. This makes us Christ’s ambassadors wherever we are, just as the priest represents Christ in the assembly.
- ◆ Worship is more than going to Mass. Believers worship in many settings and formats. Worship is about lifting ourselves, mind and heart and soul, to God. It involves prayer, word, and ritual. Anyone with a Bible, candle, rosary, and a need in their heart can worship. In an emergency, the needy heart is enough!
- ◆ We don’t need drive-thru Communion and Confession. Such activities actually diminish the richness of the sacraments. When Eucharist isn’t available, share an agape (love) meal. No blessed water? Bless each other. No confession? Tell your failings to one you’ve wronged and ask forgiveness.

Scripture: Exodus 19:5-6; Mark 11:22-25; John 17:1-26; Romans 12:4-7; 14:7-9; 1 Corinthians 12:4-31; Philippians 2:1-4; Colossians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22; 1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 10:11-18; James 5:13-18; 1 Peter 2:4-9; 5:1-6

Books: *A Prophetic, Public Church: Witness to Hope Amid the Global Crises of the Twenty-First Century*, by Mary Doak (Liturgical Press, 2020); *True Reform: Liturgy and Ecclesiology in Sacrosanctum Consilium*, by Massimo Faggioloi (Liturgical Press, 2012)

Alice Camille is a religious educator, scripture commentator, and author of many books including *This Transforming Word* and other titles found at alicecamille.com.
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